

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
May 20, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Draft Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
April Atwood	Jamey Barker	Baba Badru, King County Public Health
David Baker	Alejandra Calderon	Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
Jerry Bartlett - absent	Lauren Cole	Joan Nelson, City of Auburn
Elly Bunzendahl	Kinley Deller	April Sanders, King County Council staff
Gib Dammann	Matt Hobson	
Suzette Dickerson	Beth Humphreys	
Jean Garber	Anna Kegel	
Michael Grayum	Laila McClinton	
Kim Kaminski	Pat McLaughlin	
Kevin Kelly	Meg Moorehead	
Keith Livingston	Olivia Robinson	
Jose Lugo	Lisa Sepanski	
Barbara Ristau	Patti Southard	
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann	Eben Sutton	
Stephen Strader - excused	Kim Van Ekstrom	
Largo Wales	Diane Yates	
Bill Ziegler		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The April minutes were approved as written.

Updates

SWD

Pat McLaughlin introduced two new staff members: Communications and Records Supervisor Kim Van Ekstrom and Strategic Planning Manager Matt Hobson.

SWD hosted a Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Community Meeting on April 13 in Issaquah. Attendees had a chance to learn about completed and upcoming projects and to ask questions. King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn, also in attendance, began the meeting by voicing his support for SWD and the landfill, and told residents how to contact him if they had issues or concerns.

On April 22 a fire broke out in a compactor at the Enumclaw Recycling and Transfer Station. After alerting the fire department, transfer station operators removed trash from the compactor to expose the fire so the fire department could properly extinguish the flames. The station was closed for less than an hour to allow the building to ventilate.

Following a final walkthrough on April 22, SWD received the keys to the new Factoria transfer building. To ensure a smooth transition, customers began using the new building in phases. Commercial haulers were the first to use the building, followed by household hazardous waste (HHW) customers, and then self-haulers. The next phase of the project involves deconstructing the old station and constructing a new HHW building. The entire project is slated to be completed in December 2017.

In honor of Earth Day and 50 years of operations at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, SWD held a open house on April 23. The event gave the public a chance to see operations first-hand and to learn about the landfill's history and future. More than 100 people attended, including several King County Council members, other elected officials, and former SWD employees who worked at the landfill as early as 1965. Senior Deputy County Executive Fred Jarrett gave a speech about the importance of capturing landfill gas and converting it into clean renewable natural energy.

The search for SWD's next Assistant Division Director is underway. SWD contracted with Ralph Andersen and Associates to develop a [recruitment brochure](#) and solicit interest from across the nation. Current assistant director, Kevin Kiernan, will retire at the end of the year. More information is available [online](#).

MSWMAC

Largo Wales gave the MSMWAC update. Representatives from the State Auditor's Office discussed embedded commercial recycling collection rates (where the cost of recycling is included in the overall cost of collection services). Olivia Robinson explained that this agenda item was added to MSWMAC's agenda due to a state budget requirement that the State Auditor review these rates. The State Auditor's Office will continue reaching out to cities to learn more. SWD also presented its draft Line of Business Plan and preliminary 2017/2018 rate proposal.

Other

Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann invited members to an [Open Source Circular Economy Days](#) event to be held on June 10 in Seattle. A [flier](#) with more details will be available shortly.

Green Tools: Regional Code Collaboration: Presentation

SWD staff Patti Southard and Kinley Deller gave a [presentation on the Regional Code Collaboration](#).

Comments included:

- Southard confirmed that developers and construction contractors were involved in the Regional Code Collaboration (RCC) from the very beginning. Early stakeholder engagement was integral to the program's success.
- Schmidt-Pathmann asked what C&D materials are considered readily recyclable. Deller explained that readily recyclable materials are ones that have markets currently available. They include clean wood, cardboard, metal, gypsum scrap, asphalt paving, bricks, and concrete. The ordinance gives the SWD Director the authority to revise the list of banned materials as markets change.
- Gib Dammann noted that education for contractors is a large part of what is needed to ensure successful C&D recycling. Deller explained that this is the purpose of the designated facilities system and that cities need to help with educating contractors on requirements.
- Several members underlined the importance of labeling containers at construction sites so that it is clear what materials belong in each. Deller confirmed that more education and training at jobsites is needed.
- Southard noted there are untapped opportunities for cities, homeowners, and contractors to take advantage of the [Built Green](#) remodeling and retrofit programs. The value of homes that go through the remodel program increases six to 14 percent.
- Deller confirmed that the cost of recycling C&D materials is lower than the cost of disposal, which results in cost savings to the contractor.
- Schmidt-Pathmann emphasized the importance of collaborating with architects in designing green housing. Deller noted that SWD has a [Design for Disassembly](#) program that involves collaboration with architects and designers.
- Elly Bunzendahl noted that while the green building rating system provides the driving force, active collaboration between everyone at job sites is essential.
- Wales brought up the importance of healthy and affordable housing, especially for seniors. Southard noted that one of the committees the RCC anticipates creating next year will be focused on affordable housing. She explained that the Puget Sound Regional Council is focused on transit-oriented development and that there are not adequate incentives for affordable housing. She added that the rising cost of housing in Seattle is affecting other cities as people are priced out.
- Dammann expressed his concern that not enough incentives are being provided to incentivize recycling in multi-family housing. Southard explained that all affordable housing projects funded through the Washington State Housing Trust Fund are required to meet the Evergreen Sustainable Development Standard. She reiterated the need for cities to modify their zoning codes to incentivize affordable housing and level the playing field.

Line of Business Plan and Rates: Presentation

McLaughlin noted that SWD has been developing its Line of Business Plan for 18 months and has benefited from dialogue with SWAC and MSWMAC. Today is an opportunity for continued dialogue. There will be an additional opportunity for discussion at the June SWAC meeting.

SWD staff Meg Moorehead gave a presentation on the [Preliminary Rate Plan for 2017-2018](#). As part of King County's efforts to become the [Best-Run Government](#), SWD has been developing a business plan that makes the best use of its resources, works toward its goals of [Zero Waste of Resources](#) by 2030 and carbon-neutral operations by 2025, and provides disposal services for unincorporated King County and partner cities until 2040.

Comments included:

- McLaughlin noted that the majority of the proposed fee increase is required to sustain current services in response to inflation.
- Moorehead explained that federal requirements for landfill post-closure maintenance funds were put in place in the 1990s to ensure sufficient money to maintain landfills after closure.
- Moorehead confirmed that the 2017-2018 budget proposal includes funding for the demand management pilot.
- Garber noted it is important to consider whether the demand management strategies being tested in the pilot will be effective in 15 or 20 years.
- Schmidt-Pathmann encouraged SWD to consider alternatives to landfilling, noting that landfills will continue to exist beyond the post-closure period of 30 years. Moorehead noted that a number of King County's closed landfills have been closed longer than 30 years and that regulators continue to require that SWD monitor them. SWD recognizes the ongoing cost of monitoring closed landfills.
- Garber asked if the proposed business plan would require permit modifications for the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. Moorehead confirmed that permit modifications would be required.
- Dammann asked if recycling fees would also be raised. Moorehead explained that the proposed \$140 per ton rate is for garbage, which provides 95 percent of SWD's revenue. The only fees that would change would be ones that are tied to the garbage rate.
- Moorehead made a distinction between the county's disposal rate and the bills residents receive from haulers.
- David Baker encouraged SWD to clearly articulate what services will be available to residents when the average monthly bill increases by \$1.06.
- Michael Grayum thanked SWD for the comprehensive overview of the preliminary rate plan, adding that he is confident SWD will have a communication plan once the rate has been approved.
- Dammann encouraged SWD to consider the impact of decreased revenue from tipping fees as recycling increases. Moorehead explained that a consultant has started an evaluation of how to match the fixed and variable components of SWD

costs with the fixed and variable components of its revenue. The consultant work should be done at the end of the year.

- Vice Chair Kevin Kelly expressed concern that people may hide their garbage in their recycling in order to pay less, especially in the commercial sector. He underlined the importance of robust education. Moorehead noted that \$100,000 will be set aside to provide recycling education at transfer stations.

No objections were made to Garber's proposal to extend the meeting 15 minutes to allow for the last agenda item. Additional questions or comments related the Line of Business and Rate Plan are to be directed to Diane Yates and will be addressed at the next meeting.

Electronics Recycling: Discussion

Vice Chair Kelly introduced the discussion on electronics recycling. He noted that the recent incident with Total Reclaim unfortunately demonstrates some of the current challenges in the electronics recycling system, but also presents a learning opportunity. Recology CleanScapes is looking for alternative companies with which to partner.

SWD staff Lisa Sepanski provided more information on the Total Reclaim situation and the electronics recycling system. Complete talking points are available [here](#).

Comments included:

- Kaminski noted that Waste Management had both direct contracts with Total Reclaim and indirect relationships through manufacturer stewardship organizations. She explained that the company will no longer partner with Total Reclaim, noting that this incident has highlighted the pressures on the commodity markets. Waste Management has approved URT Solutions as a partner in Washington and Oregon and is currently looking at one more company. She noted that Total Reclaim lost its certification for two years, but it is still possible for them to do business and make their own contractual agreement.
- Grayum reiterated that this unfortunate incident spotlights the need to find a way forward, adding that Republic Services is also looking for alternative partners.
- April Atwood underlined the importance of product stewardship: manufacturers need to take responsibility for the cost of responsibly recycling their products.
- Sepanski added that electronics recyclers like Total Reclaim cannot predict what manufacturers will be producing, making it difficult to invest in recycling technology that may become obsolete the minute manufacturers change their product. This underlines the importance of manufacturers working with recyclers as they design their products and providing recyclers with information about what products are coming down the line. Atwood added that the incentives need to be realigned so that manufacturers see as this as a positive not just a cost.

Open Forum

Information presented in this section is not an official position of SWAC.

In response to a question about the impact of the recent closure of a C&D processing facility, McLaughlin explained that 11 designated facilities remain and that SWD is not concerned about processing capacity.

Dammann invited members to attend Zero Waste Vashon's [Biochar](#) event, including a lecture and workshop, on Saturday June 18.